

FIREWALL POOLING IN A NETWORK FLOWSWITCH

Srinivas Chaganty
Makarand Kale
Satish Bommareddy

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CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Continuation of
~~Co-pending~~ application Serial No. 08/994,709, now US patent number 6,266,335, entitled "Cross-Platform Server Clustering Using A Network Flow Switch," discloses and claims flow switch features used in the system of this

10 invention. Patent No. 5,963,540 entitled "Router Pooling in a Network Flow Switch," discloses and claims router fault-tolerance and router load-balancing features used in the system of this invention.

Continuation of
~~Co-pending~~ application Serial No. 08/992,038, now US patent number 6,601,084, entitled "Dynamic Load Balancer for Multiple Network Servers" discloses and claims load-balancing used in the

15 system of this invention. Co-pending application Serial No. 09/540,296 entitled "Router Clustering for Multiple Network Servers" discloses and claims pooling used in the system of this invention. Co-pending application Serial No.

09/540,297 entitled "Firewall Clustering for Multiple Network Servers." All cited applications and the patent are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

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CROSS REFERENCE TO APPENDIX

This patent application includes microfiche Appendix A which is a part of the present disclosure and which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. This Appendix consists of a total of 34 sheets that contain a total of

25 3,271 frames. Appendix A is a listing of software code of embodiments of the present invention, which are described more completely below.

Background

The growth of networking and the popularity of the Internet have created a

30 need to improve the performance and reliability of network architectures. For example, FIG. 1 shoes a block diagram of a local network 100 according to a conventional network architecture. Network 100 is connected to a network